

QUEER TARIFF THEORY

SHAW PROCLAIMS LAW CONTRADICTED BY FACTS

Protectionists Juggle Figures to Deceive the Public—Treasury Head Declares That Importations Increase Under High Duties

The new tariff theory of the protectionists is that, "paradoxical as it may appear, importations increase under a high protective tariff and decrease under low tariffs for revenue."

Absurdity of Claim

That is the declaration of Secretary Shaw in his speech at Youngstown, O., and may be taken as the protection law and gospel until another new theory can be invented to prop up the high tariff wall. But if the new theory was true, would not the trusts and combines, which aim to control the home market, be clamoring for a lower tariff? The protection theory has been that the tariff rates on importations should be so high that it will be unprofitable to pay the duty, and thus foreign products are prohibited from entering. The new gospel, according to Shaw, declares that high tariff increases importation. Why, therefore, do the protectionists so persistently refuse to reduce the tariff, which, according to Shaw, would reduce importations and thus give the trusts and combines a more complete monopoly of the home market than they now have? They might even twist the screw a bit tighter and press out a long suffering people a few more millions of extra profits.

Unfair Statement

The attempt of Secretary Shaw to prove this new theory by the decrease of imports after the passage of the tariff bill of 1904 and the increase of imports under the tariff bill of 1897 is based on estimated averages of per capita imports that do not agree with the reports of his department and throw discredit on his whole argument, but it is only fair to state what he says:

"For the four fiscal years prior to the operation of the Wilson-Gorman law, after giving credit for the cessation in importations between its enactment and the date on which it went into effect, we imported for consumption an average of \$12.21 per capita. During the fiscal year of 1891 we imported for consumption \$13.38 per capita, while we imported only \$9.41 per capita during the year immediately before the lower rate went into effect. Still the average was \$12.21 for the four years. During the next four years, giving credit for the great influx of goods, immediately following the operation of the lower rate, and another influx in anticipation of the higher rate, we imported only \$10.81 per capita, a loss of over \$1 per capita."

What Statistics Show

Now, the facts as published in the statistical abstract of the United States are here given with Shaw's estimates:

Imports per capita year ending June 30.	Shaw estimates
1893..\$12.73	McKinley act.....\$12.21
1894.. 9.41	McKinley act..... 12.21
1895.. 10.61	Wilson-Gorman act 10.81
1896.. 10.81	Wilson-Gorman act 10.81
1896.. 11.02	Wilson-Gorman act 10.81
1898.. 8.05	Dingley act..... 10.81
1899.. 9.22	Dingley act, no estimate
1900.. 10.88	Dingley act, no estimate
1901.. 10.58	Dingley act, no estimate

It will be noticed that under the Wilson-Gorman tariff the amount of imports was steadily increasing, thus disproving Mr. Shaw's new theory. The Wilson-Gorman act was received by President Cleveland August 15, 1894, and, not having been returned to congress within the time prescribed by the constitution, it became a law without his approval August 28, 1894. Whereas Mr. Shaw says the Wilson-Gorman bill went into July 1, 1894. He also carefully skips giving any estimate for the years 1899-1901, when the present Dingley law was failing to produce the average revenue that the Wilson-Gorman act did.

Luxuries Taxed Lightly

Secretary Shaw also intentionally or unintentionally deceived the people when he claimed that the rich are paying the tariff taxes on account of the increase in the amount of luxuries imported. The rich pay but a small proportion of the tariff tax, for under the schedules many articles—the cheaper goods—pay the highest percentage of duty, and diamonds, for instance, are on the free list, and if cut and polished only pay 20 per cent, and pearls only pay 10 per cent ad valorem. Only the rich or well to do buy diamonds and pearls, and the tariff tax they pay is infinitesimal compared to what the poor pay on sugar and other necessities, which are taxed under this present republican tariff from 50 to 100 per cent and even higher.

EIGHT REBATE INDICTMENTS

First Prosecution as Result of Moody's Recommendation Started

Philadelphia, Dec. 15.—Eight indictments against shippers, freight agents and common carriers, charged

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ing discriminations and rebates, have been returned by the federal grand jury.

This is the first direct result of the circular letter sent by Attorney General Moody to United States District Attorney J. Whittaker Thompson directing him to enforce the Elkins law.

The indictments are against the Great Northern Railway company, C. L. Campbell of the Great Northern, L. W. Lake of the Mutual Transit company, Walter, George, Stuart and Richard Wood, alleged to have been granted rebates; Paul J. Diver of the Mutual Transit company, and the Mutual Transit company.

Immunity has been granted to a number of principals in the transactions who gave testimony before the grand jury, among whom was President Charles M. Heald of Buffalo, of the Mutual Transit company.

A large number of witnesses have been summoned in the cases.

Meriwether Reprimanded

Secretary of the Navy Charles J. Bonaparte wrote a letter reprimanding Midshipman Meriwether in pursuance of the sentence of the court martial.

LEGAL NOTICE

To Herman Fisher, non-resident defendant: You are hereby notified that on the 23rd day of November, 1905, Verdie Fisher filed a petition against you in the district court in and for Lancaster county, Nebraska, the object and prayer of which are to obtain a divorce from you on the grounds of cruel treatment and non-support of her by you. You are required to answer said petition on or before Monday, the 15th day of January, 1906, otherwise the facts and allegations set forth in said petition will be taken as true and decree entered in said action accordingly.

VERDIE FISHER, Plaintiff.
MEIER & MEIER, Attorneys.